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ABSTRACT

This guide provides a framework to help secondary teachers and students explore the growing societal problems of shoplifting. The guide can be used in inservice programs as well. Five sessions are designed to inform students of the social, legal, and economic aspects of stealing. In these sessions, students define shoplifting, discuss the types of people who shoplift, list reasons for shoplifting, and analyze personal values and attitudes toward this crime. They consider the effect of a shoplifting record on future employment and educational activities, and define terms such as larceny, misdemeanor, and felony. Also, students describe procedures for the apprehension of a shoplifter and analyze consumer and merchant rights and responsibilities. Finally, following a survey of local merchants, students describe problems caused by shoplifting in terms of costs to businesses and consumers. Activities include small group discussions, reading supplemental articles, attitude surveys, using community resources, and role playing. Pre- and posttests and a list of resources including reviews of film and media kits are supplied. Transparency masters, answer keys, and student evaluations are included in appendices. (KC)

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Consumer Education
Training Module

SHOPLIFTING:
A CONSUMER CONCERN

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Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

SP-011427

SHOPLIFTING: A CONSUMER CONCERN

BY: MARY LOU SPEERS

AUGUST, 1977

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A TEACHER INSERVICE MODULE FOR SECONDARY LEVEL (GRADES 7-12) CONSUMER EDUCATION UNITS IN HOME ECONOMICS, BUSINESS EDUCATION, SOCIAL STUDIES AND RELATED AREAS.

THE AUTHOR

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THE CENTER

The Michigan Consumer Education Center provides professional development and continuing education services to educators through courses, workshops, inservice programs, conferences and publications. The Center maintains a loan library of teaching-learning resources available for preview and evaluation.

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SHOPLIFTING: A CONSUMER CONCERN

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APPROXIMATE CLASSROOM TEACHING TIME:

5 50-minute class periods

DEFINITION AND SCOPE

Consumer education is the preparation of individuals in the skills, concepts and understandings required for everyday living so they can achieve within the framework of their own values, maximum use and satisfaction of their resources.

Consumer education involves the study of factors affecting consumer behavior, personal financial management, buying and using goods and services, rights and responsibilities of both buyers and sellers, basic economic principles, and sources of consumer information and assistance.

GENERAL GOALS OF CONSUMER EDUCATION

CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

The student will analyze the factors affecting consumer behavior.

Values	Decision Making	Basic Skills
Goals	Advertising	Special Needs
Lifestyles	Career Choice	

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The student will apply basic principles of sound financial management.

Budgets	Bankruptcy	Payroll Deductions
Credit	Tax Forms	Financial Services
Record Keeping	Estate Planning	Savings and Investments
Insurance		

GOODS AND SERVICES

The student will demonstrate knowledge and skills in buying and using goods and services.

Food	Transportation	Health
Clothing	Education	Professional Services
Housing	Recreation	

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The student will analyze the interrelated rights and responsibilities of consumers, business and government.

Consumer Laws	Complaint Methods	Consumer Representation
Legal Rights	Environment	Current Issues
Energy	Product Safety	

ECONOMICS

The student will relate economic principles to the functions of the marketplace.

U. S. Economic System	Profits and Price
World Economic Systems	Supply and Demand
Government Regulation	Taxation
Inflation and Recession	Unemployment

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

The student will evaluate sources of consumer information and assistance.

Federal Agencies	Private Organizations
State and Local Agencies	Information Evaluation
Community Services	

The objectives of this module relate to one or more of the general goals of consumer education.

OVERVIEW AND RATIONALE

Shoplifting causes problems not only for the merchant and the shoplifter, but for the honest consumer as well. Many shoplifters when caught claim they didn't know shoplifting was a crime. Yet ignorance of the law does not protect the shoplifter from arrest, conviction and prosecution. Shoplifting has increased steadily over the last ten years. It is estimated that 5 billion dollars worth of retail merchandise is shoplifted annually in the United States.

This module will increase the student's awareness of . . .

. . . economic effects of shoplifting upon the consumer and the merchant.

. . . legal rights and responsibilities of consumers, government and business related to shoplifting.

. . . individual and societal values related to shoplifting.

In a study conducted by General Mills in 1976-77, the American Family Report, 23 million families with children under twelve were examined. Among the children between ages ten and twelve who were interviewed, 61% knew of other children who had taken something that didn't belong to them.

This module provides a framework for teachers and students to explore together the growing societal problem of stealing.

MODULE GOAL

THE STUDENT WILL ANALYZE THE SOCIAL, LEGAL, AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF SHOPLIFTING.

MODULE OBJECTIVES

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING

1. Given related references, the student will define shoplifting, discuss the types of people who shoplift, and list reasons given for shoplifting.
2. Using discussion questions provided in this module, the student will analyze personal values and attitudes related to shoplifting.
3. Following a class discussion, the student will describe the effects a shoplifting record can have on an individual's future employment and educational opportunities.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING

4. Without the use of references, the student will define the legal terms related to shoplifting: larceny in a building, grand larceny, simple larceny, larceny by trickery, felony, and misdemeanor.
5. Without the use of references, the student will describe the procedures for apprehension of a shoplifter.
6. Given related references, the student will analyze the rights of both merchants and consumers related to shoplifting.
7. Without the use of references, the student will compare the difference in responsibility of the merchant with the responsibility of the consumer regarding shoplifting.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING

8. Following a survey or interview with local merchants, the student will describe the problems caused by shoplifting in terms of cost to business and to the consumer.

PRE-TEST

TRUE AND FALSE - indicate your answer by using "T" or "F".

1. _____ Shoplifting is not stealing.

2. _____ If your friend gives you something which you know has been stolen and it is found in your possession, you can be arrested and tried in court.

3. _____ More girls are shoplifters than boys.

4. _____ People who shoplift, more often than not, can afford to buy the merchandise.

5. _____ Shoplifting, recorded as a "felony" at the police station, could limit your choice of employment or institution of higher learning.

6. _____ Switching price tags on an item in the store is not a crime.

7. _____ If caught stealing an item over $100, in Michigan, you could be placed in prison for up to 4 years.

8. _____ Consumers pay more for merchandise because of losses due to store thefts.

9. _____ Some individuals steal because of peer pressure.

10. _____ It is alright to take an inexpensive item in a store because the prices are higher then they should be.

11. _____ A store employee cannot make a citizen's arrest based on the Michigan law that larceny in a building is a felony.

12. _____ A shoplifter who is caught should know that prosecution is possible.

13. _____ People who are arrested for shoplifting are not tried in a court of law.

14. _____ If found guilty of a misdemeanor, the individual could be given 90 days in the county jail and $100 fine.

15. _____ Most shoplifters are professionals.

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING

OBJECTIVE 1:

Given related references, the student will define shoplifting, discuss the types of people who shoplift, and list reasons given for shoplifting.

Shoplifting is a polite word for stealing. It is defined as stealing in a store, shop, office, warehouse, or other establishment of any material goods which have value, no matter how little the value.

Stealing is the act of taking property of another individual without the permission of the owner. Stealing is a criminal act, regardless of the value of the item stolen. Changing price tags on merchandise in a store is stealing by trickery and is a crime punishable by law.

Stealing takes place in libraries as well as stores. The Michigan Library Association estimates that 1 to 3% of the books on open shelves are stolen every year. Far more obvious and inconvenient to the honest consumer are the times when individuals rip articles, charts and photographs out of books, magazines and encyclopedias. This happens even though most libraries today have copy machines that can duplicate for as little as five cents a page.

When shopowners speak of "shrinkage" they don't mean something that happens to your jeans in the laundry. They mean "shoplifting." When the grocer talks about how many shopping carts were lost last month, he really means stolen. Merchants used to be gentle with shoplifters, especially teen-age shoplifters. But at last count shrinkage and loss were up to $5 billion a year nationally, and merchants are starting to get tough.

WHO SHOPLIFTS?

Shoplifting is not an activity of only one segment of society. Teachers, business executives and their affluent wives, doctors, lawyers, teen-agers and little old ladies -- all types and ages have been caught shoplifting.

Not only is shoplifting done by consumers, but many times the stealing of goods from the businesses is performed by the employees in that establishment. In an article in Newsweek, November 24, 1975, a large department store revealed that it had fired 4,000 employees in that year, or about 3 per cent of its total force, for stealing about $2.5 million in merchandise. Store employees are more difficult to catch in the act of removing goods than are customers. Unlike shoplifting customers, the employees understand the store routine, and use it to their advantage. Many merchants now go to great lengths and great expense to trap their resident thieves. Security budgets of $1 million are not unknown for a single store.

A nationwide survey covering about one sixth of the nation's self-service department stores revealed that in 1972, 148,525 persons were apprehended for the crime of shoplifting in just 1,188 stores. Out of 91,000 employees working in those stores, 3,000 were arrested for inside theft.

An article appearing in the U. S. News and World Report, December 10, 1973, titled "Holiday Shoplifting Heads for a Record," describes a Retailing Institute survey of 1,188 large discount department stores in 1972. The survey revealed that of the shoplifters apprehended in 1972, 53% were teen-agers and 47% were adults. Male shoplifters made up 42% of the total while 58% were female.

Dr. Joyce Brothers, prominent psychologist, reported in an article "Why Girls Steal," Good Housekeeping, July, 1974 that the greatest proportion of shoplifters are females. Most of this population are teens between the ages of 13-19 years of age, with comfortable middle-class backgrounds. They often have enough money with them to buy the articles they steal. She suggests that shoplifting might represent one symptom of adolescent turmoil as evidence of the degeneration of Western culture.

Related Activities

-- Administer pre-test for unit (page 4). Discuss answers with class.

-- Divide the class into small groups of 3-4 students to discuss the following issues related to shoplifting:

1. Definition of shoplifting
2. Types of people who shoplift
3. Reasons they think people shoplift

Small group report back to total class for summary of discussions. (Possible answers to topics attached, page 8.)

-- Show film or media kit.

Film: Shoplifting: The Losing Game. Color, 13 minutes. Universal Education and Visual Arts, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, Ca. 91608. $130.00. (F90)

Media Kit: Shoplifting. 2 filmstrips and cassettes. Prentice-Hall Media, 150 White Plains Rd., Tarrytown, N. Y. 10591. $53.00. (M254)

-- Assign selected students the following supplemental articles found in the Appendix: "Sandy Shoplifted Last Saturday," "Shoplifting," and "We All Get Caught with the Bill."

ISSUES RELATED TO SHOPLIFTING

Define Shoplifting:

-- Taking something from a store without paying for it.
-- The act of taking something of value without payment.
-- Stealing from shops and stores by consumers and employees.
-- Taking, using, and returning an item without intent of paying for the item. ("borrowing" -- definition of some students.)
-- Taking something that doesn't legally or morally belong to you.
-- Removing an article from the store, house or other place that doesn't belong to you, with intentions of keeping it.
-- Stealing another's property, i.e. store items.
-- Removing or taking anything that does not belong to you.

Types of People:

-- Anyone including all strata of life
-- Sneaky, very poor, very wealthy, mentally ill, insecure, disadvantaged people
-- Store employee that uses his charge and discount for other people
-- Employees that take things
-- Children, housewife, police, doctors, lawyers
-- ALL
-- Police Chiefs, five year olds, teachers, factory workers
-- Impossible to categorize -- all types included
-- Anyone who has a desire and/or need for material goods

Reasons Why People Shoplift:

-- Challenge or excitement of it
-- Fun of it
-- Revenge, need, lack of money to pay for it, dare
-- Person feels the store owes it to them
-- Bored, peer pressure, need it or want it, dare, get back at the establishment
-- To get attention
-- Instant gratification, challenge
-- People do not think stealing is wrong
-- Need, greed, get "even", for thrills, peer pressure, kleptomaniac, won't hurt store, nothing will happen if caught - anyway
-- Need, challenge, mental illiness, unreasonable prices
-- Aged (don't receive enough social security), inflation
-- Addiction, hobby, thrills, threats, lack of money
-- Keeping up with the Jones'
-- They won't miss it attitude, club initiations
-- It's not wrong, ignorance
-- Convenience, frustration, need status, thrills, peer pressure, boredom
-- "we paid for it with our taxes" attitude

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING (CONTINUED)

OBJECTIVE 2.

Using discussion questions provided in this module, the student will analyze personal values and attitudes related to shoplifting.

Dr. Joyce Brothers, psychologist, views shoplifting as more than a crime, it is a symptom. It could be a symptom of the struggle of young people to find a meaningful set of values to live by. It could be a symptom of the extent to which material goods are used as a success and love substitute. It could be a symptom of the feelings of insecurity and lack of relatedness so many individuals have need for in present day society.

Teenagers are sometimes pressured into shoplifting by friends just to see if they can get away with it. Yet most arrested juveniles claim they were never told that shoplifting is a crime. They say they didn't understand the risks involved, the threat to their future.

In some cases, shoplifters "rip off the establishment" as a political act. Because of feelings of anger or distrust for business and government, the individuals feel that they have a right to take anything they can get. While defying the law, these individuals claim innocence of wrong doing with a special kind of moral superiority.

Common answers to why people shoplift are:

"I was bored."

"I did it for a joke."

"I did it on a dare."

"It was part of being accepted into a group."

"I just wanted it (item)."

The attitudes of students about shoplifting are influenced by family, peer pressure and the student's personal value system. While this module does not deal with the larger areas of values clarification, the following open ended discussion questions will focus on personal attitudes related to shoplifting. The list was adapted from materials developed by Hayden Green, an Illinois consumer education teacher.

Related Activity

-- Conduct a school-wide attitude survey using the following Shoplifting Attitude Survey.

SHOPLIFTING ATTITUDE SURVEY

1. What do you think is the difference between shoplifting and stealing?

2. Is one more wrong than the other?

3. Up to what amount would you shoplift?

4. Would you take something worth $1?

5. Why do you have a limit?

6. What would your parents' response be to knowing you shoplift?

7. Do you think people take things because they need them?

8. Do you think people take things because they want them?

9. Do you think people take things because stores make a lot of money anyway and this is just a way of getting back?

10. What do you do or say if a friend is shoplifting while with you?

11. Would you ever encourage a friend to shoplift?

12. Do you think people who are arrested for shoplfiting should have to go to jail?

13. What is a fair punishment for shoplifting?

14. Do you think a shoplifting record should influence an employer in hiring an individual?

15. If a person is caught shoplifting from the place where he/she works, should the employer fire the person?

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING (CONTINUED)

OBJECTIVE 3.

Following a class discussion, the student will describe the effects a shoplifting record could have on the individual's future employment and educational opportunities.

Too many shoplifters are unaware of the serious harm that a police record can do to their lives and futures. In Midland, Michigan in late 1976, a young high school student (and eagle scout) committed suicide after being arrested for shoplifting because he thought the police record would prohibit him from entering a military academy. (See page 45: Detroit Free Press article, "Youth's Suicide Leads His Family to Help Others," March 20, 1977.) In this case, because the theft was under $100, the crime could have been reduced to a misdemeanor under Michigan law, and may not have been reported on the student's military academy application.

It is difficult to believe that stealing a 20¢ candy bar might alter an individual's future plans, but in fact, it can. Retailers are prosecuting more and more shoplifters. Almost all of the people who are caught, many of whom are teenagers, have a permanent police record which may undermine many of their future plans.

With a police record, it is difficult to go into any business or profession where a special license is required, such as law or real-estate. Any job that requires bonding, even that of a stockboy, will probably be closed to the youth with a record. He/she may also be turned down for city, county, state or federal jobs. When an employer inquires about an individual's record at the police department, the person is referred to as "delinquent." Prospective employers seldom want to hire a delinquent.

Even if a business application does not ask whether an individual has a police record, covert methods may be used to investigate the police record of the individual being considered for employment. On many employment applications a direct inquiry is made as to the involvement of the individual in arrest or conviction.

RELATED ACTIVITIES:

-- Have students discuss whether under Michigan law, a shoplifting arrest of under $100 is considered a felony. (Related to Midland, Michigan suicide. See article in Appendix.)

-- Have students contact the local police office to find out the policy regarding giving juvenile police records to prospective employers, educational institutions and credit sources.

-- Have panel discuss the implications of a police record on student's future plans.

Panel participants could include:

Representative of Michigan Employment Security Commission

A representative from the personnel office of a local business firm

A public relations representative from a local college or university

A credit lending institution representative

-- Give students examples of employment application blanks and college applications and have the students find where the application asks about arrest and prosecution. Discuss the probable results of answering "yes" to the question "Have you ever been arrested?" (Sample application forms are included in the module for: employment (page 38) and Military Officer's Training School (page 39).

LEGAL ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING

OBJECTIVE 4.

Without the use of references, the student will define the legal terms related to shoplifting: larceny in a building, grand larceny, simple larceny, larceny by trickery, felony, and misdemeanor.

Definitions of terms related to shoplifting:

LARCENY IN A BUILDING

Larceny in a building is stealing anything of value in a store, shop, office, warehouse, or other building.

"Larceny in a building" is the broad category under the Michigan Penal Code, Section 360, which gives the merchant the right to make a "citizen's arrest" when shoplifting has occurred. If prosecuted under this penal code, the shoplifter would be facing a felony charge. The usual procedure is to reduce the charge to a misdemeanor if the goods taken are less than $100 in value. If the individual is a repeated offender, he/she can be prosecuted under this broad category and face felony charges.

Three categories of larceny:

1. Grand larceny - Stealing anything which exceeds $100 in value. This is a felony.

2. Simple larceny or petty theft - Stealing anything which is less than $100 in value. This is a misdemeanor.

3. Larceny by trickery - Stealing from the store by switching price tags to reduce the indicated price of the goods. This is a misdemeanor, if item taken was under $100. If item is over $100, the penalty is 5 years and $2500 fine.

FELONY DEFINITION FROM MICHIGAN PENAL CODE

The term "felony" shall be construed to mean an offense for which the offender, on conviction, may be punished by death, or by imprisonment in the state prison.

FELONY PUNISHMENT (Grand Larceny, Larceny over $100, Larceny in a Building)

According to Michigan law, an individual convicted of a larceny felony could be subject to not more than five years of imprisonment and/or to a fine of not more than $2500 plus court costs. Felony convictions are recorded on the individual's permanent police record.

If the individual is convicted of a felony, there are serious implications because of the gravity of the crime. Possible imprisonment and fines on the offender are only a part of the lasting effects of conviction for this crime. A conviction of a felony may have serious limitations on the individual's future, for it is permanently kept on the police record to be referred to by prospective employers, credit establishments, higher education institutions, or other positions where bonding or licensing is required. An individual who is convicted of a felony cannot be a fireman, a legislator. a law enforcement official, or a lawyer -- to name a few of the restrictions.

MISDEMEANOR DEFINITION FROM MICHIGAN PENAL CODE

When an act or omission, not a felony, is punishable according to law, by a fine, penalty or forfeiture, or imprisonment, in the discretion of the court, such act or omission shall be deemed a misdemeanor.

When the performance of any act is prohibited by any statute without penalty being imposed, such act shall be deemed a misdemeanor.

MISDEMEANOR PUNISHMENT (Larceny under $100, Simple Larceny, Petty Theft)

According to Michigan law, an individual convicted of a misdemeanor could be subject to not more than 90 days of imprisonment and/or to a fine of not more than $100 plus court costs.

The law states that any person who commits the offense of shoplifting by stealing the property of another, if the property stolen is under the value of $100, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Although, the misdemeanor has less serious implications relative to the confinement and fines imposed, the fact of conviction still remains on the individual's police record. This record is referred to in similar circumstances as mentioned under the felony charge. A criminal record can be a serious handicap in many situations -- when an individual interviews for a job, applies for college entrance, seeks a loan, or whenever a routine check is made of the past.

Related Activities:

-- Use "Definitions" (Appendix, pages 33-34) for presentation on the overhead projector or as a transparency for class discussion on the legal terms related to shoplifting.

-- Invite a police detective, an attorney, or a law student into the classroom to talk to the students regarding the legal implications of shoplifting.

-- Have students write questions they have on the legal aspects of shoplifting, and submit to the guests before they arrive in the classroom.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING (CONTINUED)

OBJECTIVE 5.

Without the use of references, the student will describe the procedures for apprehension of a shoplifter.

The merchant may detain a person suspected of removing merchandise from a store without permission or without exchange of legal tender (money or other payment). The merchant can make a "citizen's arrest" under Michigan Penal Code, Section 360, "Larceny in a Building." The merchant may detain the suspected shoplifter for the purpose of interrogation, identification and the recovery of the goods in question.

At this time, the incident is reported to the police department and a uniformed police officer in a police car is called to the scene. If the investigation and search reveals that the suspect has shoplifted, the police officer charges the shoplifter with "larceny in a building." The individual is advised of his/her rights, and identification of the shoplifter is established. It is necessary to establish identification and age of the offender, because notification of parents is required for shoplifters 17 or under.

The shoplifter is searched at the store by the police officer, then a written report of the incident is prepared. The suspect is handcuffed and taken to the police station. Even though handcuffing may seem unnecessary, there have been instances of the accused individuals harming themselves or others or attempting to escape from the police car.

The report is officially presented to the officer in charge at the police station and the case is assigned to an investigator. The shoplifter is detained in the police station until a determination of the case is made. Even first offenders sometimes are kept at the police station overnight. If the charge is larceny of

more than one hundred dollars, the prosecutor makes a judgment regarding the severity of the charge and the amount of bond necessary for release. If the shoplifter is under 17 years of age, the case is referred to the Juvenile Division of the Police Department. The shoplifter under 17 years of age may be released to the custody of his parents, but prosecution may take place.

WHO GETS FINED IN A JUVENILE SHOPLIFTING CASE?

According to Juvenile Court procedures, the court can render a decision from dismissing a petition to assigning the juvenile as a ward of the state. However, there is no verbage in the procedures that addresses the point of fines, costs or restitution, and therefore, these items are not a part of the court disposition.

In restitution cases, civil action can be taken by the plaintiff against the parents of juveniles, but not against the juveniles themselves.

Generally in a shoplifting case the property is seized and upon completion of court disposition, it is released back to owner. In such cases there would not be restitution anyway, as the property would have been returned.

Related Activities:

-- Set up a role playing activity for the students from the information acquired, simulate the detention of the shoplifter, the arrest, the trip to the police department, and the courtroom scene with the judge. Video tape the process for class viewing and evaluation.

-- Invite an individual who has been involved in shoplifting to describe the process and the impact it had on his/her life. (It is possible to find reformed criminals who have been arrested and convicted of shoplifting and who are willing to share the experience for the benefit of those who might believe there are no serious consequences of shoplifting.)

LEGAL ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING (CONTINUED)

OBJECTIVE 6.

Given related references, the student will analyze the rights of both merchants and consumers related to shoplifting.

Rights of the Merchant

A clear definition of the term "rights" is paramount in differentiating the rights of the merchant from those of the consumer in the marketplace. As defined in Webster's dictionary "rights" related to the merchant, represent the interest or ownership a person, group, or business has in property. Since the merchant is the rightful owner of the consumer goods being displayed or offered for sale, the merchant has the right to protect those goods from anyone who might steal goods without the rightful exchange of legal tender.

Michigan Shoplifting Law represents the merchants rights and has been enforced since 1958 to protect the interests of the shop owner. This is an act to limit the recovery in certain civil actions where the defendant (shop owner) or his agent has reasonable grounds to believe that the plaintiff (accused shoplifter) has stolen goods from the merchant. This act is in accord with the Michigan Penal Code, Section 360, which states that it is a felony to commit the crime of larceny in a building by stealing goods of any value. The merchants rights, however, were not clearly defined in the Penal Code.

Even though the merchant was reasonably certain that the theft had taken place, he was subject to excessive civil damage suits if the alleged shoplifter was found not guilty for technical reasons. Therefore, many merchants were reluctant to detain or question a suspect, even though they were almost certain that he/she was shoplifting. It was in an attempt to

correct this situation, Michigan's shoplifting law, Public Act 182 was enacted in 1958. In 1978, two legislative bills (H.B. #4155 and #4156) are in the state House of Representatives, sponsored by Representative Lucille McCullough. These bills address the merchant's rights and up date the twenty year old "Shoplifting Law." (See appendix, pages)

A third bill (H.B. #5834), introduced by Representative Dennis Hertel with strong support from Lucille McCullough is essentially similar to House Bills #4155 and 4156. This bill passed in the House of Representatives on April 26, 1978 and is presently in the Senate Subcommittee on Judiciary.

Rights of the Consumer

The consumer on the other hand, has the right to be in a business or shop during working hours when open to the public. The consumer has what might be termed rights . . . "that which is due to anyone by just claims, legal guarantees" to be free to shop in the business.

It is important to note here that if the business is open to the public, the merchant may not enforce a restriction of "no teens" allowed. If however, there have been instances of misuse of merchandise, disturbing of other customers, or shoplifting, the shop owner has the right to restrict that specific individual from the business. A blanket restriction is not legal.

When the consumer abuses the rights of the shop owner by stealing merchandise, that consumer gives up that right to be welcome, and becomes subject to legal action under the definition of larceny in a building. The consumer has the right to expect that he/she will not be suspected and/or searched for goods unless there is reasonable suspicion of stolen goods on the person.

Related Activity:

-- Given one of the house bills, the student will choose one of these bills and compose a letter of support or disapproval to Representative McCullough or Hertel related to this proposed legislation. (During the fall of 1978 they will pressure for passage of these bills.)

LEGAL ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING (CONTINUED)

OBJECTIVE 7.

Without the use of references, the student will compare the difference in responsibility of the merchant with the responsibility of the consumer regarding shoplifting.

Responsibility

Responsibility is defined as "a particular burden of obligation upon one who is competent." Synonyms might include: accountability, answerability, dependability or reliability. Both the consumer and the merchant have responsibilities in the marketplace.

Responsibility of the merchant

The merchant has the responsibility to offer the consumer a fair and equitable price for merchandise. This responsibility encompasses responsibility to all the consumers served, both honest and dishonest citizens. Retailers must therefore protect their property from possible theft in order to reduce shrinking inventories which result in increased costs to all consumers.

Most businesses have an average profit margin of 1.3% on sales in food markets, and 3% to 5% on general merchandise. To make up for the loss of one stolen package of gum in a food market, the store must sell approximately 100 packs of gum, or must increase the price of gum to cover the loss.

Responsibility of the consumer

Since the consumer is using his right to be in a business or shop during working hours, when open to the public, to look at, examine, touch, or try on merchandise offered for sale, he/she is responsible for treating that property belonging to another, with respect. The consumer should not misuse, mishandle,

abuse or steal goods which have not exchanged hands through proper financial transactions.

The responsibility of the consumer in the marketplace goes beyond his/her own personal respect toward the merchandise. The consumer has the responsibility to inform the merchant of anyone seen in the process of shoplifting.

Related Activity:

-- Divide the class into two sections --

Section 1 -- the merchants

Section 2 -- the consumers

Have students make a list of

a. their responsibilities in the role they represent

b. hinderances to following through with these responsibilities

Report to the class in brainstorming session.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF SHOPLIFTING

OBJECTIVE 8.

Following a survey or interview with local merchants, the student will describe the problems caused by shoplifting in terms of cost to business and to the consumer.

Statistics show that retail inventory losses from shoplifting approach almost 2 percent nationally. In terms of individual businesses, every retailer who does $100,000 worth of business, is losing $2,000 to this illegal act.

Losses due to shoplifting come out of the shopowner's net profits; a $100 theft loss that is prevented means a $100 increase in net profit. In a business that earns a net profit of 2 percent, the prevention of a $100 theft loss is equivalent to increasing sales volume by $5,000 and is less costly in time, effort and money.

Security studies of retail stores across the country indicated that in 1969, an estimated 3.8 million shoplifters were apprehended in the United States -- one shoplifter was arrested every 19 seconds. But more important than the shoplifters who were apprehended are those who were not. The most optimistic studies of retail effectiveness in spotting shoplifters indicate that stores with good security programs apprehend no more than one out of every 35 shoplifters.

Shoplifting increases costs and inconveniences for all non-shoplifting consumers who thus subsidize shoplifters. The STEM program in Philadelphia uses the slogan: "Shoplifters Take Everybody's Money." This message is aimed at the general public, particularly the honest shopper who might assist in helping to reduce shoplifting losses.

Small businessmen grossing under $1 million a year, suffer the highest percentage of all shoplifting and retail crimes (68%) despite the fact that they account for only 30% of the nation's total business receipts. The impact of this crime on small businessmen is 3.2 times that of firms with annual receipts over $5 million, reports the U. S. Department of Commerce. According to the Small Business Administration, shoplifting is one of the prime reasons why small businesses are forced to close their doors. They are least able to absorb the losses, and are unable to afford the overhead required for extensive protective measures. According to the U. S. Department of Commerce, theft has reached such proportions that it has been recognized as a contributing factor in some branch closings as well as corporate bankruptcies.

Over a thousand shoppers in a shopping center in Omaha, Nebraska were asked: "Does shoplifting result in any cost and/or inconvenience to you as a customer?"

Of the 1126 shoppers who answered the question, 91.4% said yes. Those who said yes listed a cost or inconvenience as follows: 9.12% -- higher prices, 10.2% -- cost of security, 9.6% -- unpleasant store atmosphere, 5.3% -- inconvenience of anti-shoplifting measure, 1.9% -- merchandise locked up, 0.9% -- less selection of merchandise, 0.3% -- questioning of innocent people. It is important to note that even though a high percentage of respondents are aware that shoplifting costs the consumer money in the form of higher prices, very few of them were aware that they "pay" for shoplifting in other important ways.

The University of Kansas and Middle Tennessee State University investigators conducted a series of experiments in a large department store placing shoplifting awareness signs in departments when shoplifting was a serious problem. The signs read: "Shoppers and Shoplifters: The items you see marked with a red star are items that shoplifters frequently take." Results: When merchandise was publicly identified as frequently taken, shoplifting was virtually eliminated. One explanation for the effectiveness of the signs and red stars is that this identification indicated the merchandise was under close surveillance.

Incidents of false arrest can be costly to the retailer. In a southern city, a store manager discovered too late that the arrest of a customer for the theft of a 97¢ hat was not legally valid. This mistake cost his company $100,000. The lawsuit made headlines in trade papers from coast to coast. A sound knowledge of security techniques and regulation helps to prevent such costly and embarrassing errors.

Another incident involved a woman who, while attempting to exchange a compact, was arrested for shoplifting. When the store realized it had made a mistake, it offered her any merchandise she wanted as a gift if she would not sue for false arrest. She selected a grand piano.

Related Activities:

-- Have students design a survey and contact 5 local merchants regarding problems and costs of shoplifting. Possible questions could include:

1. In what ways does shoplifting increase the cost of goods and services to the consumer?
2. What security measures are used in local stores?
3. To what extent is shoplfiting a major problem in your area?

-- Give Post Test (page 27-28).

POST TEST

1. Joan shoplifted a $15 pair of blue jeans. She has committed what type of offense?

   Type of offense_____

   Penalty_____

2. After trying on a $125 leather coat at a local department store, John decided to steal the coat. As he left the store he was approached by the security guard. What type of offense has John committed?

   Type of offense_____

   Penalty_____

3. List four ways that shoplifting increases the cost of goods and services to the consumer.

   1._____

   2._____

   3._____

   4._____

4. Define the term shoplifting in your own words. Give two examples.

   Definition:_____

   _____

   _____

   Example 1_____

   Example 2_____

5. Define "profit margin"

   _____

   _____

   The average profit margin for a food store is _____%

   The average profit margin for a general store is _____%

6. Describe the procedure used by a law enforcement official when arrested a shoplifter.

_____

_____

_____

7. Define the following:

Simple larceny _____

Larceny in a building _____

Grand larceny _____

Larceny by trickery _____

8. What is the maximum penalty in Michigan for shoplifting, if convicted on a:

a. Misdemeanor: Confinement _____ Fine _____

b. Felony: Confinement _____ Fine _____

9. Describe the rights and responsibilities of the merchant and consumer in the marketplace.

	Consumer	Merchant
RIGHTS		
RESPONSIBILITIES		

10. List five reasons people give for shoplifting.

11. List two ways prosecution for shoplifting can effect an individual's future.

_____

_____

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

FILMS:

Caught. Cinemattic Concepts Corporation, 1817 Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. $260. Grade level: Sr. High and Adult. Color, 25 minutes. 1972. (F55)

Shoplifting: It's a Steal. Betty Crocker Teaching Aids, 9200 Film Center, Box 1113, Minneapolis, Mn. 55440. $125 or free loan from the Betty Crocker Address. Up to 100 booklets free from the same source. Grade level: Jr. High to Adult. Color, 15 minutes. (F52)

Shoplifting: The Losing Game. Universal Education and Visual Arts, Caswell and Caswell Distributors, 3571 Newgate Road, Troy, Mi. 48084. $160. Grade level: Junior and Senior High. Color, 20 minutes. 1976. (F90)

MULTI MEDIA KITS:

Shoplifting. 2 filmstrips and cassettes, program guide. Prentice-Hall Media, Inc., 510 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, N. Y. 10591. $53. 1976. Grade level: Jr. and Sr. High. (M254)

ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS:

"Attention all Teenagers: Shoplifting is a Crime." Michigan Retailers Assoc., Lansing, Michigan. 1974.

"Breaking a Friendship or Breaking a Law -- Which Would You Choose?" September 1978, pp. 22-24.

Brothers, Joyce, "Why Girls Steal," Good Housekeeping, July, 1974, pp. 66-69.

Brown, Susan, "Youth's Suicide Leads His Family to Help Others," Detroit Free Press, March 20, 1977.

"BUSTED" (Six Teen-Agers Tell How Shoplifting Changed Their Lives), Retail Merchants Association, 150 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

"Do You Know What Shoplifting Is?" Retail Merchants Association, 150 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

El-Dirghami, Amin, "Shoplifting Among Students," Journal of Retailing, Vol. 50, #3, Fall, 1974, pp. 33-42.

Green, Hayden D., "Consumer Education Mini Unit," Illinois Consumer Education Association, October, 1975.

"Holiday Shoplifting Heads for a Record," U. S. News and World Report, Dec. 10, 1973, p. 47.

Housel, Thomas J., "Finding Allies in the Fight Against Shoplifting," Nation's Business, Sept. 1977, pp. 64-66.

"Nobody Told the Johnson's Daughter the Facts of Life," General Mills Consumer Center. Companion Booklet to the film above, "Shoplifting: It's a Steal."

"On Crime and Criminals," Family Weekly, Nov. 13, 1977, p. 31.

"Philadelphia's Way of Stopping the Shoplifter," Business Week, May 6, 1972.

Prestwich, Leonard, "Consumer Attitudes Toward Shoplifting," paper presented at the National Retail Merchants Association Convention on January 10, 1977.

"Raising Children in a Changing Society," The General Mills American Family Report, 1976-77, General Mills Inc., 9200 Wayzata Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"Retailing: The Thieves Within," Newsweek, November 24, 1975.

"Sandy Shoplifted Last Saturday," Co-Ed, Dec. 1977, pp. 52-53.

"Space-Age Devices to Outwit Thieves," U. S. News and World Report, July 2, 1973.

"Shoplifting," Current Consumer, December, 1976, pp. 25-27.

"Shoplifting: A Study Guide," New Jersey Retail Merchants Association, P. O. Box 22, 926 W. State Street, Trenton, N. J. 08601.

Stark, Al, "One Out of Every Dozen of Us is a Potential Shoplifter," The Sunday News Magazine, Detroit, December 12, 1976, pp. 12-19.

State of Michigan, "Shoplifting Law," Act no. 182, Public Acts of 1958.

"Teenagers Beware! Shoplifting is Stealing," National Retail Merchants Association, 100 West 31st Street, New York, N. Y. 10001, 1968.

Turner, Josephine, Potter, Helen, "Teenage Shoplifting," Journal of Home Economics, May, 1976, pp. 24-26.

"We All Get Caught with the Bill," Everybody's Money, Summer 1976, pp. 8-9.

FILM REVIEW

Shoplifting: The Losing Game

16 mm, color, 13 minutes. Universal Education and Visual Arts, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, Ca. 91608. $130.00. (F90)
Grade level: Jr. and Sr. High.

This film portrays teenagers in a large department store considering the act of stealing merchandise. The teenagers deal with peer pressure related to shoplifting. There are no adults involved in the film except the policeman in the store. Actual laws and punishment related to shoplifting are flashed on the film.

As the teenager thinks about the right and wrong of shoplifting, scenes of being arrested, handcuffed and jailed flash through her mind. She begins to realize the consequences of stealing as it is enforced by the law. The teenager decides not to steal based primarily on her knowledge of what will happen to her is she does.

Although the film deals with the moral aspects of shoplifting, the main focus of the film is on the results of the action.

Shoplifting: It's a Steal

16 mm, color, 15 minutes. Betty Crocker Teaching Aids, 9200 Film Center, Box 1113, Minneapolis, Minn. 55440. $125.00 or on free loan from the above address. Up to 100 booklets free from Betty Crocker Teaching Aids.
Grade level: Jr. High to Adult. (F52)

Hard facts about teenage shoplifting are highlighted in this film -- its social cost, penalties and prevention. The analogy of shoplifting to stealing is clearly identified.

A teenager is shown stealing a pair of pants. She is approached as she is leaving the store, her parents are called, and she is taken into the detention room in the department store. The teenager is handcuffed and taken to the police station.

Individuals of all ages are shoplifters. Older people have been involved in this illegal activity, younger children have been caught in the act, but 65-70% of the shoplifters who are identified are teenagers.

Emphasis is placed on the cost of the act of shoplifting to the merchant. This additional cost to the merchant is reflected in increased cost of goods and services to the consumer.

FILM REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Caught

16 mm, color, 25 minutes. Cinematic Concepts Corp., 1817 Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. $260.00. (F55) Grade level: Sr. High and Adult.

A store detective, a police woman, and security personnel are interviewed on the subject of shoplifting. From the interview scene, the cameras alternate to the actual shoplifting taking place at a store. Several types of detecting devices are portrayed and explained.

Methods of increasing security include:

-- A TV monitoring device which is used to constantly monitor suspicious potential shoplifters. These devices can actually video-tape the shoplifting act for future reference.

-- A magnetic device which is attached to the garmet or other articles in the store sets off an alarm when the shoplifter leaves the store with merchandise.

-- Two-way mirrors which are used in dressing rooms. These are constantly monitored by security officials to see the customer, but the customer sees his/her own reflection in the mirror.

-- Convex mirrors which are placed strategically in stores for clerks to help monitor shoplifting.

More shoplifters are being caught today than ever before because of these devices and shoplifters are being prosecuted when caught. The film depicts the procedure for arrest of a shoplifter -- handcuffs and all.

MEDIA KIT REVIEW

Shoplifting

Color filmstrips and cassettes, 25 minutes for two parts. Norm Goldstein, The Associated Press and Prentice-Hall Media, 150 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, N. Y. 10591. $53.00. (M254) Grade level: Jr. and Sr. High.

This media presentation is a two-part sound filmstrip program representing both the shoplifter's and the retailer's points of view. It examines the costs of shoplifting in both money and morality.

Part one presents interviews with several representatives or retailers through the country examining shoplifting as a national problem of very costly proportions in terms of dollar losses.

Part two presents three shoplifters explaining their rationale for taking things from stores. Penalities for shoplifting are documented and some rather unique punishments imposed on young shoplifters are detailed. The filmstrip presentation ends on a very penetrating question. "What is the best way to deter the crime of shoplifting in the first place?"

APPENDIX

DEFINITIONS

LARCENY IN A BUILDING IS STEALING ANYTHING OF VALUE IN A STORE, SHOP, OFFICE, WAREHOUSE, OR OTHER BUILDING.

GRAND LARCENY IS STEALING ANYTHING WHICH EXCEEDS $100 IN VALUE ANYPLACE -- IN A BUILDING, CAR, PARKING LOT, WAREHOUSE, ETC.

SIMPLE LARCENY OR PETTY THEFT IS STEALING ANYTHING WHICH IS UNDER $100 IN VALUE. MOST SHOPLIFTING OFFENSES FIT INTO THIS CATEGORY. THIS IS A MISDEMEANOR.

LARCENY BY TRICKERY IS STEALING FROM THE STORE BY SWITCHING PRICE TAGS TO REDUCE THE INDICATED PRICE OF THE GOODS, OR OTHER MEANS WHICH DEPRIVE THE MERCHANT OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE GOODS.

FELONY DEFINITION FROM MICHIGAN PENAL CODE

THE TERM "FELONY" SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO MEAN AN OFFENSE FOR WHICH THE OFFENDER, ON CONVICTION, MAY BE PUNISHED BY DEATH, OR BY IMPRISONMENT IN THE STATE PRISON.

FELONY PUNISHMENT (GRAND LARCENY, LARCENY OVER $100, LARCENY IN A BUILDING)

ACCORDING TO MICHIGAN LAW, AN INDIVIDUAL CONVICTED OF A FELONY COULD BE SUBJECT TO NOT MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT AND/OR TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN $2500 PLUS COURT COSTS. FELONY CONVICTIONS ARE RECORDED ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S PERMANENT POLICE RECORD.

MISDEMEANOR DEFINITION FROM MICHIGAN PENAL CODE

WHEN AN ACT OR OMISSION, NOT A FELONY, IS PUNISHABLE ACCORDING TO LAW, BY A FINE, PENALTY OR FORFEITURE, OR IMPRISONMENT, IN THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT, SUCH ACT OR OMISSION SHALL BE DEEMED A MISDEMEANOR.

WHEN THE PERFORMANCE OF ANY ACT IS PROHIBITED BY ANY STATUTE WITHOUT PENALTY BEING IMPOSED, SUCH ACT SHALL BE DEEMED A MISDEMEANOR.

MISDEMEANOR PUNISHMENT (LARCENY UNDER $100, SIMPLE LARCENY, PETTY THEFT)

ACCORDING TO MICHIGAN LAW, AN INDIVIDUAL CONVICTED OF A MISDEMEANOR COULD BE SUBJECT TO NOT MORE THAN 90 DAYS OF IMPRISONMENT AND/OR TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN $100 PLUS COURT COSTS.

ANSWER KEY

PRE-TEST:

1. F; 2. T; 3. T; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. T; 9. T; 10. F;
11. F; 12. T; 13. F; 14. T; 15. F.

POST-TEST:

1. Type of offense Misdemeanor
   Penalty 90 days - $100 fine

2. Type of offense Felony
   Penalty 4 years - $2500 fine

3. Inventory shrinkage replacement - increased cost of goods
   Increased security personnel
   Increased security devices
   Increase in sales personnel

4. Shoplifting is stealing anything of any value.
   Example - Taking food from a market
   Example - Stealing blue jeans from a clothing store

5. Profit margin is the amount of profit in a business that is left after all overhead is paid.

   Food store - 1.3%
   General store - 3 - 5%

6. Procedure for shoplifter apprehension:

   a. Shop owner detains the shoplifter in the store.
   b. Shop owner notifies the police.
   c. Policeman arrests the shoplifter.
   d. Shoplifter is charged at the police station.
   e. Shoplifter is prosecuted.

7. Define simple larceny - stealing anything under $100
   grand larceny - stealing anything over $100
   larceny in a building - stealing anything in a building
   larceny by trickery - changing price tag

8. Misdemeanor - crime punishable by up to 90 days and/or $100 fine
   Felony - crime punishable by up to 4 years and/or $2500

9. The consumer has the right to be in the business establishment when it's open, and the merchant has the right to protect business property.

   The consumer has the responsibility to respect the merchandise and the merchant has the responsibility to offer a fair market value on the merchandise.

10. 5 reasons:

    a. I was bored.
    b. I did it for a joke.
    c. I did it on a dare.
    d. It was part of being accepted into the group.
    e. I didn't know it was wrong.

11. A record can limit future employment and higher education possibilities.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION FORM

CORP. CODE _____ _____ CORRECTION/CHANGE _____ Effective Date

SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____

NAME _____ (38)
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

STREET ADDRESS _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PHONE _____

SUITE OR APT. NO. _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ AREA CODE _____ TEL. NO. _____

MARRIED: ☐ YES ☐ NO DATE OF BIRTH* ___/___/___ EVER WORK here BEFORE? IF YES, DATES AND LOCATION _____

Interviewer or References Comments

THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED OUT BY MANAGER ONLY AFTER HIRE

DATE OF HIRE _____ MALE ☐ FEMALE ☐ EMPLOYEE STATUS _____ C.S.D. _____ JOB TITLE CODE _____ NATIONAL ORIGIN _____

REHIRE YES ☐ NO ☐ FED. MARITAL TAX STATUS _____ FEDERAL TAX. EX. _____ STATE MARITAL TAX STATUS _____ STATE TAX EX. _____ LOCAL MARITAL TAX STATUS _____ LOCAL TAX EX. _____ STATE CODE _____ LOCAL CODE _____

GROUP INS. COVERAGE NONE* _____ W/DEP. _____ W/O DEP _____ OPT. LIFE _____ STOCK PURCHASE AMT. _____ MEALS ☐ YES ☐ NO RATE _____

*If employee declines insurance, attach waiver form otherwise attach beneficiary form.

TAX EX. STATUS _____ F.I.C.A. _____ F.U.T.A. _____ S.U.T.A. _____ STATE MED./DISABILITY

AVAILABILITY:

TOTAL HOURS AVAILABLE PER WEEK _____ PART TIME ☐ FULL TIME ☐ HOURS AVAILABLE:

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
FROM							
TO							

AVAILABILITY DURING SCHOOL VACATIONS: FULL ☐ PART ☐ NONE ☐

HOW DID YOU HEAR OF JOB? _____ HOW FAR DO YOU LIVE FROM STORE? _____ HOW WILL YOU GET TO WORK? _____

SCHOOL:

NAME _____ LOCATION _____ PHONE _____

TEACHER OR COUNSELOR _____ DEPT. _____ LAST GRADE COMPLETED _____ GRADE POINT AVERAGE _____

GRADUATED? _____ WHEN? _____ NOW ENROLLED? _____ SPORTS OR ACTIVITIES _____

TWO MOST RECENT JOBS:

COMPANY _____ LOCATION _____ PHONE _____

JOB _____ SUPERVISOR _____ DATES WORKED: FROM _____ TO _____

SALARY _____ REASON FOR LEAVING _____

COMPANY _____ LOCATION _____ PHONE _____

JOB _____ SUPERVISOR _____ DATES WORKED: FROM _____ TO _____

SALARY _____ REASON FOR LEAVING _____

MILITARY:

SERVED? YES ☐ NO ☐ IF YES, DATES: FROM _____ TO _____ DRAFT STATUS _____

PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS _____ EVER CONVICTED OF A CRIME? _____

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IF YES, EXPLAIN _____

*FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN THE AGES OF 40-65.

Sample application for employment.

APPLICATION FOR NAVAL OFFICER CANDIDATE TRAINING
NAVPERS 1110/5 (6-66) (Formerly NAVPERS 912)
0105-901-5050
Please print or type answers. All questions must be answered.
Write "none" or place an "X" in any blank not applicable to you.

DATE

NAME (Last)	(First)	(Middle)	APPLICANT FOR

PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS (Number and street)	(City)	(County)	(State)

PLACE OF BIRTH (City)	(County)	(State)	DATE OF BIRTH (Day) (Month) (Year)

IF FOREIGN BORN (Date naturalized)	(Place where naturalized)	(Certificate No.)

EDUCATION

HIGH SCHOOLS ATTENDED (Name and location)	DATES ATTENDED	YEARS COMPLETED	DATE GRADUATED

COLLEGES ATTENDED (Name and location)	DATES ATTENDED	YEARS COMPLETED	DATE GRADUATED

PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (Indicate offices held, etc.)

ATHLETICS

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

CLUBS, SOCIETIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS, AWARDS, ETC. (Athletic or scholarship)

ATTACH RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS, ONE FULL FACE AND ONE PROFILE, OF HEAD AND SHOULDERS, SIZE 2½ X 2½ INCHES, IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

Sample Application for Military Officers' Training School

(Over)

MILITARY EXPERIENCE OR PREVIOUS OFFICER CANDIDATE TRAINING

SERVICE	DATES OF DUTY	RANKS OR RATING HELD	CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE

PERSONAL HISTORY

HOBBIES

PART-OR FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT *(Specify type or work and dates of employment)*

Have you ever been arrested, summoned into court as a defendant, or indicted, or convicted, or imprisoned, or placed on probation, or has any case against you been filed, or have you ever been ordered to deposit collateral for alleged breach or violation of any law or police regulation or ordnance whatsoever? *(Check one)* ☐ YES ☐ NO

If so, attach to this form a sheet of paper (size 8 X 10½ inches) and list thereon all cases, *without exception whatsoever*, giving in each case (1) the date, (2) your age at the time, (3) the place where the alleged violation occurred, (4) the name and location of the court, (5) the nature of the offense or violation, (6) the penalty, if any, imposed, or other disposition. The above question includes all arrests by military or naval authorities and disciplinary action imposed by court martial and non-judicial punishment, as well as civil cases.

Have you ever claimed or been granted a pension, disability allowance, disability compensation, or retired pay from the government of the United States? *(Check one)* ☐ YES ☐ NO

If so, attach to this form a sheet of paper (size 8 x 10½ inches) and state full details thereon.

Have you ever been known by any other name or names other than that used in this application? *(Check one)* ☐ YES ☐ NO

If so, even if such differences were only differences in spelling, explain in affidavit form and submit with this application.

Have you ever failed flight training in the Army, Navy, or Air Force? ☐ YES ☐ NO

I certify that all statements made in this application and any additional statements pertaining thereto are entirely true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signature of applicant in full)

Sample Application for Military Officers' Training (continued)

HOUSE BILL No. 4155

February 17, 1977, Introduced by Reps. McCollough, Hertel, Bennett, DiNello, Holcomb, Rocca, Legel, Anderson, Richard A. Young, Kelsey, Spaniola, Thomas H. Brown, Stephen Stopczynski and Sietsema and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend Act No. 236 of the Public Acts of 1961, entitled as amended "Revised judicature act of 1961,"
as amended, being sections 600.101 to 600.9934 of the Compiled Laws of 1970, by adding section 2917a; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Section 1. Act No. 236 of the Public Acts of 1961, as amended, being sections 600.101 to 600.9934 of the Compiled Laws of 1970, is amended by adding section 2917a to read as follows:

SEC. 2917A. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

(A) "MERCHANDISE" MEANS PERSONAL PROPERTY CAPABLE OF MANUAL DELIVERY, WHICH IS DISPLAYED, HELD, OR OFFERED FOR SALE BY A MERCHANT.

(B) "MERCHANT" MEANS AN OWNER, MANAGER, OR OPERATOR OR THE AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF AN OWNER, MANAGER, OR OPERATOR OF A STORE OR RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT WHERE MERCHANDISE IS DISPLAYED, HELD, OR OFFERED FOR SALE.

HOUSE BILL No. 4155

(C) "PREMISES" MEANS A STORE, RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT, OR A PART OF THE STORE OR RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT WHERE MERCHANDISE IS DISPLAYED, HELD, OR OFFERED FOR SALE.

(2) A MERCHANT MAY REQUEST A PERSON ON THE MERCHANT'S PREMISES TO PLACE OR KEEP IN FULL VIEW MERCHANDISE THE PERSON MAY HAVE REMOVED, OR WHICH THE MERCHANT HAS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THE PERSON MAY HAVE REMOVED, FROM THE MERCHANDISE'S PLACE OF DISPLAY OR ELSEWHERE, WHETHER FOR EXAMINATION, PURCHASE, OR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. A MERCHANT SHALL NOT BE CRIMINALLY OR CIVILLY LIABLE FOR MAKING THE REQUEST.

(3) A MERCHANT WHO HAS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT MERCHANDISE HAS BEEN WRONGFULLY TAKEN BY A PERSON AND THAT THE MERCHANDISE MAY BE RECOVERED BY TAKING INTO CUSTODY AND DETAINING THE PERSON MAY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTEMPTING TO EFFECT THE RECOVERY OR FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFORMING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DETENTION, TAKE INTO CUSTODY AND DETAIN THE PERSON, ON THE PREMISES, IN A REASONABLE MANNER AND FOR A REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME. THE DETAINED PERSON SHALL BE INFORMED PROMPTLY OF THE PURPOSE OF THE DETENTION. THE DETAINED PERSON SHALL NOT BE INTERROGATED OR SEARCHED WITHOUT CONSENT BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO MAY MAKE AN ARREST. A MERCHANT SHALL NOT BE CRIMINALLY OR CIVILLY LIABLE FOR THE TAKING INTO CUSTODY OR DETENTION, UNLESS THE TAKING INTO CUSTODY OR DETENTION IS UNREASONABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

(4) A MERCHANT SHALL NOT BE ENTITLED TO THE IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THERE IS DISPLAYED IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE ON THE MERCHANT'S PREMISES A NOTICE IN BOLDFACE TYPE CLEARLY LEGIBLE AND IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FOLLOWING FORM:

"A MERCHANT OR A MERCHANT'S AGENT WHO HAS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT MERCHANDISE HAS BEEN WRONGFULLY TAKEN BY A PERSON MAY DETAIN THE PERSON ON

THE PREMISES OF THE MERCHANT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOVERING THE PROPERTY OR NOTIFYING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. AN ADULT, OR THE PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR, WHO STEALS MERCHANDISE IS CIVILLY LIABLE FOR ITS VALUE AND ADDITIONAL DAMAGES."

Section 2. Section 2917 of Act No. 236 of the Public Acts of 1961, being section 600.2917 of the Compiled Laws of 1970, is repealed.

Section 3. This amendatory act shall not take effect unless House Bill No. S. 87 (Request No. 381 of 1977) of the 1977 Regular Session of the legislature is enacted into law.

828 '77

HOUSE BILL No. 4156

February 17, 1977, Introduced by Reps. McCollough, Hertel, Bennett, DiNello, Holcomb, Rocca, Legel, Anderson, Richard A. Young, Kelsey, Spaniola, Thomas H. Brown, Stephen Stopczynski and Sietsema and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend Act No. 328 of the Public Acts of 1931, entitled "The Michigan penal code,"
as amended, being sections 750.1 to 750.568 of the Compiled Laws of 1970, by adding section 360a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Section 1. Act No. 328 of the Public Acts of 1931, as amended, being sections 750.1 to 750.568 of the Compiled Laws of 1970, is amended by adding section 360a to read as follows:

SEC. 360A. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

(A) "MERCHANDISE" MEANS PERSONAL PROPERTY CAPABLE OF MANUAL DELIVERY, WHICH IS DISPLAYED, HELD, OR OFFERED FOR SALE BY A MERCHANT.

(B) "MERCHANT" MEANS AN OWNER, MANAGER, OR OPERATOR OR THE AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF AN OWNER, MANAGER, OR OPERATOR OF A STORE OR RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT WHERE MERCHANDISE IS DISPLAYED, HELD, OR OFFERED FOR SALE.

HOUSE BILL No. 4156

(2) A PERSON SHALL NOT WILFULLY TAKE POSSESSION OF MERCHANDISE WITH THE INTENT TO PERMANENTLY DEPRIVE THE MERCHANT OF POSSESSION OF THE MERCHANDISE OR ITS PURCHASE PRICE IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

(3) A PERSON SHALL NOT WILFULLY ALTER A LABEL, PRICE TAG, OR MARKING ON MERCHANDISE WITH THE INTENT TO DEPRIVE THE MERCHANT OF THE PURCHASE PRICE IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

(4) A PERSON SHALL NOT WILFULLY TRANSFER MERCHANDISE FROM THE CONTAINER IN OR ON WHICH THE MERCHANDISE IS DISPLAYED TO ANOTHER CONTAINER WITH THE INTENT TO DEPRIVE THE MERCHANT OF THE PURCHASE PRICE IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

(5) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF SHOPLIFTING, WHICH IS A MISDEMEANOR, PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 90 DAYS, OR A FINE OR NOT MORE THAN $300.00, OR BOTH.

(6) IN ADDITION TO THE PENALTIES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (5):

(A) A PERSON, OTHER THAN A MINOR, WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS CIVILLY LIABLE FOR THE RETAIL VALUE OF THE MERCHANDISE, PLUS DAMAGES OF NOT LESS THAN $100.00 NOR MORE THAN $250.00, COURT COSTS, AND REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES OF THE MERCHANT.

(B) THE PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS CIVILLY LIABLE FOR THE RETAIL VALUE OF THE MERCHANDISE, PLUS DAMAGES OF NOT LESS THAN $100.00 NOR MORE THAN $250.00, COURT COSTS, AND REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES OF THE MERCHANT.

829 '77

From
Dennis M. Hertel
your
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HOUSE BILL No. 5834

December 15, 1977, Introduced by Reps. Hertel, McCollough, Forbes, Cushingberry, Geralds, Legel and Defebaugh and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend Act No. 328 of the Public Acts of 1931, entitled "The Michigan penal code,"
as amended, being sections 750.1 to 750.568 of the Compiled Laws of 1970, by adding chapter 89.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Section 1. Act No. 328 of the Public Acts of 1931, as amended, being sections 750.1 to 750.568 of the Compiled Laws of 1970, is amended by adding chapter 89 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 89

SEC. 571. AS USED IN THIS CHAPTER:

(A) "CONCEAL" MEANS THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME NOTICE OF THE MERCHANDISE'S PRESENCE, THAT MERCHANDISE IS NOT VISIBLE THROUGH ORDINARY OBSERVATION.

(B) "FULL RETAIL VALUE" MEANS THE MERCHANT'S STATED OR ADVERTISED PRICE

HOUSE BILL No. 5834

OF THE MERCHANDISE.

(C) "MERCHANDISE" MEANS AN ITEM OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY.

(D) "MERCHANT" MEANS AN OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT OR AN AGENT, EMPLOYEE, LESSEE, CONSIGNEE, OFFICER, DIRECTOR, FRANCHISEE, OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR OF AN OWNER OR OPERATOR.

(E) "PEACE OFFICER" MEANS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE STATE, OR OF A CITY, VILLAGE, TOWNSHIP, OR COUNTY OF THE STATE.

(F) "PERSON" MEANS A NATURAL PERSON OR INDIVIDUAL.

(G) "PREMISES OF A RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT" INCLUDES THE RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT, COMMON USE AREAS IN SHOPPING CENTERS, AND ALL PARKING AREAS SET ASIDE BY A MERCHANT OR ON BEHALF OF A MERCHANT FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PATRONS OF THE RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT.

(H) "RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT" MEANS A PLACE WHERE MERCHANDISE IS DISPLAYED, HELD, STORED, OR OFFERED FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC.

(I) "SHOPPING CART" MEANS A PUSH CART OF THE TYPE WHICH IS COMMONLY PROVIDED BY GROCERY STORES, DRUG STORES, OR OTHER RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC IN TRANSPORTING COMMODITIES IN STORES AND MARKETS AND FROM THE STORE TO A PLACE OUTSIDE THE STORE.

(J) "UNDER-RING" MEANS TO CAUSE THE CASH REGISTER OR OTHER SALES RECORDING DEVICE TO REFLECT LESS THAN THE FULL RETAIL VALUE OF THE MERCHANDISE.

SEC. 572. A PERSON COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF RETAIL THEFT WHEN THE PERSON KNOWINGLY DOES ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) TAKES POSSESSION OF, CARRIES AWAY, TRANSFERS, OR CAUSES TO BE CARRIED AWAY OR TRANSFERRED, MERCHANDISE DISPLAYED, HELD, STORED, OR OFFERED FOR SALE IN A RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT WITH THE INTENTION OF RETAINING THE MERCHANDISE OR WITH THE INTENTION OF DEPRIVING THE MERCHANT PERMANENTLY OF THE

POSSESSION, USE, OR BENEFIT OF THE MERCHANDISE WITHOUT PAYING THE FULL RETAIL VALUE OF THE MERCHANDISE.

(B) ALTERS, TRANSFERS, OR REMOVES A LABEL, PRICE TAG, MARKING, INDICIA OF VALUE, OR ANY OTHER MARKINGS WHICH AID IN DETERMINING VALUE AFFIXED TO A MERCHANDISE DISPLAYED, HELD, STORED, OR OFFERED FOR SALE, IN A RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT WITH THE INTENTION OF DEPRIVING THE MERCHANT OF THE FULL RETAIL VALUE OF THE MERCHANDISE.

(C) TRANSFERS MERCHANDISE DISPLAYED, HELD, STORED, OR OFFERED FOR SALE, IN A RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT FROM THE CONTAINER IN OR ON WHICH THE MERCHANDISE IS DISPLAYED TO ANY OTHER CONTAINER WITH THE INTENTION OF DEPRIVING THE MERCHANT OF THE FULL RETAIL VALUE OF THE MERCHANDISE.

(D) UNDER-RINGS WITH THE INTENTION OF DEPRIVING THE MERCHANT OF THE FULL RETAIL VALUE OF THE MERCHANDISE.

(E) REMOVES A SHOPPING CART FROM THE PREMISES OF A RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE MERCHANT GIVEN AT THE TIME OF THE REMOVAL.

SEC. 573. A PERSON WHO CONCEALS UPON HIS OR HER PERSON OR AMONG HIS OR HER BELONGINGS, UNPURCHASED MERCHANDISE DISPLAYED, HELD, STORED, OR OFFERED FOR SALE IN A RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT; AND WHO REMOVES THAT MERCHANDISE FROM THE PREMISES OF THAT RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT OR BEYOND THE LAST STATION FOR RECEIVING PAYMENTS FOR THAT MERCHANDISE IN THAT RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT SHALL BE PRESUMED TO HAVE POSSESSED, CARRIED AWAY, OR TRANSFERRED THE MERCHANDISE WITH THE INTENTION OF RETAINING IT OR WITH THE INTENTION OF DEPRIVING THE MERCHANT PERMANENTLY OF THE POSSESSION, USE, OR BENEFIT OF THE MERCHANDISE WITHOUT PAYING THE FULL RETAIL VALUE OF THE MERCHANDISE.

SEC. 574. (1) IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF THE FACTS WHICH GIVE RISE TO A PRESUMPTION TO GO TO THE JURY, THE ISSUE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE

PRESUMED FACT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE JURY, UNLESS THE COURT IS SATISFIED THAT THE EVIDENCE AS A WHOLE CLEARLY NEGATES THE PRESUMED FACT.

(2) IF THE ISSUE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE PRESUMED FACT IS SUBMITTED TO THE JURY, THE COURT SHALL CHARGE THAT WHILE THE PRESUMED FACT SHALL, ON ALL THE EVIDENCE, BE PROVED BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT, THE LAW DECLARES THAT THE JURY MAY REGARD THE FACTS GIVING RISE TO THE PRESUMPTION AS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF THE PRESUMED FACT.

SEC. 575. (1) A MERCHANT WHO HAS REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT A PERSON HAS COMMITTED, OR IS IN THE PROCESS OF COMMITTING, RETAIL THEFT MAY DETAIN THE PERSON, ON OR OFF THE PREMISES OF A RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT, IN A REASONABLE MANNER AND FOR A REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

(A) TO REQUEST IDENTIFICATION.

(B) TO VERIFY IDENTIFICATION.

(C) TO MAKE REASONABLE INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER THE PERSON HAS IN HIS OR HER POSSESSION UNPURCHASED MERCHANDISE AND TO MAKE REASONABLE INVESTIGATION OF THE OWNERSHIP OF THE MERCHANDISE.

(D) TO INFORM A PEACE OFFICER OF THE DETENTION OF THE PERSON AND SURRENDER CUSTODY OF THAT PERSON TO A PEACE OFFICER.

(E) IF THE PERSON IS A MINOR, TO INFORM A PEACE OFFICER, THE PARENTS, GUARDIAN, OR OTHER PRIVATE PERSON INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF THAT MINOR OF THIS DETENTION AND TO SURRENDER CUSTODY OF THE MINOR TO THAT PERSON.

(2) A MERCHANT MAY MAKE A DETENTION AS PERMITTED IN THIS SECTION OFF THE PREMISES OF A RETAIL MERCANTILE ESTABLISHMENT ONLY IF THE DETENTION IS PURSUANT TO AN IMMEDIATE PURSUIT OF THE PERSON.

SEC. 576. A DETENTION AS PERMITTED IN THIS CHAPTER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ARREST OR AN UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT, AND IT SHALL NOT RENDER THE MERCHANT LIABLE

TO THE PERSON DETAINED, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 2917 OF ACT NO. 236 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1961, BEING SECTION 600.2917 OF THE MICHIGAN COMPILED LAWS. IF AN ARREST IS MADE AS A RESULT OF A DETENTION AS PERMITTED IN THIS CHAPTER, A MERCHANT INDUCING, MAKING, OR CAUSING THE ARREST SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR THE ARREST, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 2917 OF ACT NO. 236 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1961.

SEC. 577. (1) AN ADULT WHO COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF RETAIL THEFT SHALL BE CIVILLY LIABLE FOR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE FULL RETAIL VALUE, COST OF REPAIR, OR COST OF REPLACEMENT OF THE MERCHANDISE.

(B) ACTUAL DAMAGES OF NOT LESS THAN $100.00 NOR MORE THAN $500.00 MEASURED BY THE TIME AND EFFORT EXPENDED BY A MERCHANT IN RECOVERY OF THE MERCHANDISE AND IN APPREHENSION AND PROSECUTION OF THE OFFENDER, PLUS COSTS OF THE ACTION AND REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.

(2) THE PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR WHO COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF RETAIL THEFT SHALL BE CIVILLY LIABLE FOR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE FULL RETAIL VALUE, COST OF REPAIR, OR COST OF REPLACEMENT OF THE MERCHANDISE.

(B) ACTUAL DAMAGES OF NOT LESS THAN $100.00 NOR MORE THAN $500.00 MEASURED BY THE TIME AND EFFORT EXPENDED BY A MERCHANT IN RECOVERY OF THE MERCHANDISE AND APPREHENSION AND PROSECUTION OF THE OFFENDER PLUS COSTS OF THE ACTION AND REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.

(3) A CONVICTION, OR PLEA OF GUILTY TO THE CHARGE OF RETAIL THEFT IS NOT A PREREQUISITE TO THE BRINGING OF A CIVIL ACTION AS PROVIDED IN THIS CHAPTER.

(4) RECOVERY UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE HAD IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER REMEDY AT LAW.

SEC. 578. (1) A PERSON WHO COMMITS RETAIL THEFT OF PROPERTY THE FULL

RETAIL VALUE OF WHICH DOES NOT EXCEED $150.00 IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

(2) A PERSON WHO COMMITS RETAIL THEFT OF PROPERTY THE FULL RETAIL VALUE OF WHICH EXCEEDS $150.00 IS GUILTY OF A FELONY.

(3) A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE OF RETAIL THEFT IS GUILTY OF A FELONY.

5288 '77

House
Legislative
Analysis
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THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

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ANALYSIS - H.B. 5834 (4-28-78)*

OVER

Youth's Suicide Leads His Family To Help Others

DETROIT FREE PRESS Sunday, Mar. 20, 1977

Continued from Page 3A

BY SUSAN BROWN
Free Press Staff Writer

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Please turn to Page 12A, Col. 1

coping

SANDY SHOPLIFTED LAST
SATURDAY . . .
WHAT DO YOU THINK
SHE GOT?

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U.S. Stores lose a total of $2 billion a year from shoplifting.

More than 50% of shoplifting is done by teens . . . mostly girls.

Shoplifting raises prices as much as 10%.

small losses are felt. When some people steal, we all make up the difference out of our pocketbooks."

THE STORE IS WATCHING

"It's my business to know about teenage shoplifters," says William Meehan. "Because it's my business to prevent losses in our stores." Mr. Meehan is Director of Security for 58 Korvettes stores throughout the East. He's a large, calm man who speaks in a nonthreatening but firm voice.

"I'm not talking about hardened juvenile delinquents. A lot of basically good kids try to take our merchandise. In most cases they have more than enough money to pay for what they snitch. But they want something. They think nothing will happen if they take it. Well, I've seen a lot of very nice young people, very sorry and shocked after we see them in our office.

"The fact is, shoplifting is stealing, whether it's a 79-cent belt or a 79-dollar camera outfit. And in shoplifting, teens are the amateurs. We're professionals. We know how snitchers operate. Often we can spot them before they move."

Every major retailer has stepped up prevention. Uniformed guards are visible. Less visible protection includes plainclothes detectives, closed-circuit TV scanners, and clothing tags that set off an alarm if they're taken past the door.

John Powers, Director of Security for the Jordan Marsh stores in the Boston area, says, "You may hear people around your school bragging about what they've lifted. But remember, you don't hear them talking after they get caught. If you shoplift, we'll be watching. Sooner or later you *will* get caught."

And when you are, the days of lecture and warning are over. Mr Powers echoes store managers across the country who say, "We're not fooling. Shoplifting is stealing. We'll prosecute."

IF YOU GET CAUGHT

Getting caught stealing—even the first time—is a humiliating experience. There are also consequences. Your parents will surely be informed. The store will have a record and never want to hire you. Plus you might feel too embarrassed to shop there again. Try explaining that to your friends.

In some larger cities, major retailers keep shoplifters on a computer. If you snitch at Store B, they can find out you've already snitched at Store A. They'll know it's *not* your first time. In smaller towns, word gets around. Young people who go around ripping off the local merchants find their reputation precedes them.

Many people believe the courts are too busy to bother with shoplifters, or that police prefer to be lenient with juveniles. To an extent that's true. In many cases a juvenile between 16 and 19 years of age will get a Youth Offender conviction, instead of a permanent police record, or it will be sealed.

But William Gold, a lawyer who has represented young shoplifters, advises, "It's not a good idea to have any kind of record. If you have even a juvenile-delinquency notation, people know about you. They cannot read a sealed record, but they'll know it's there."

Shoplifting carries criminal penalties, including fines and jail sentences. Even if you get off on probation, consequences follow you. Attorney Gold points out, "Many job applications ask whether you have any kind of police record. If you do, that's a tough question to answer. Banks, insurance companies, and government offices check past records especially carefully. Now, no one can say that one shoplifting incident is going to ruin your life. But if an employer has several qualified people to choose from, and you've got a record, who do you think will get picked?"

At those prices, is shoplifting worth the risk?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Don't play along with the crowd that thinks shoplifting is smart. Want some good counter slogans? Try these: "Shoplifting Is Stealing"; "Shoplifting Is Not A Game, It's A Crime"; "Shoplifting Doesn't Pay—You Do"; "Shoplifting Is Dumb."
- If you see someone shoplifting, report it to a store clerk or security guard.
- When you buy something, make sure you have a receipt. That's your protection against being suspected of shoplifting or being accused by mistake.

In many cases shoplifting should be treated as a symptom, not just a crime. It's a dangerous way of dealing with personal frustrations. It makes more sense to sit down with a friend, adult, or counselor you trust. Better to talk out bad feelings, than act them out

—ANDREA FOONER

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Breaking a Friendship or Breaking a Law—Which Would You Choose?

Consumer's View

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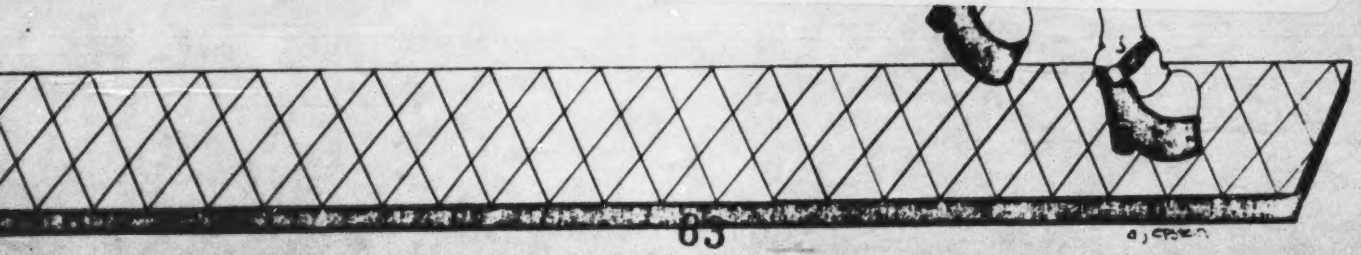

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SELECTED REACTIONS OF STUDENTS TO SHOPLIFTING UNIT

"The way I feel about thefts is the same way I feel about a rapist or murderer. I hate them all! It is good that today they have cameras and security guards and other equipment to catch the theives running lose in our society."

"I think that shoplifting relects on the family. If I had a son or daughter that got caught shoplifting, I would feel bad about it. All they would have to do is ask me for the money and if I could I would give it to them or they would have to wait until I could."

"What do you get out of shoplifting, nothing at all but a prison term. It's bad for you and the stores because you shoplift, and make some businesses go bankrupt."

"In my heart I find it to be a good influence on high school students to think before they act."

"When they catch you shoplifting, they put you on record and that record will follow you for the rest of your life. It can prevent you from getting a job."

"I feel that shoplifting has nothing to do with Economics because of the simple fact that Economics is the way you handle money, and in shoplifting you don't use no money!"

"I think everyone should study this topic. It could lessen the lifters."